

DSA won't respond to presidential resignation rumors

By Brad Hilderley

The Doon Student Association executive says it does not have a responsibility to respond to rumors surrounding the Nov. 9 resignation of DSA president Ron Lehman.

"If he (Lehman) wants to do something about stopping the rumors himself, that's up to him," Jennifer Kurt, DSA vice-president of administration, told the Nov. 23 DSA board of directors meeting.

"But as for us, the DSA, it's totally out of our hands," Kurt said.

Lehman, who is no longer on the executive, must deal with the matter on his own now, she added.

Kurt's comments came after Julie Cooper, representing second-year journalism, told the board there are "really bad rumors floating around" regarding the circumstances which prompted Lehman's resignation.

Cooper requested more information on the issue.

However, Shelley Kritz, representing second-year management studies, said that "personal reasons means it's nobody else's

business."

And Tony Domingos, the new DSA vice-president of communications, said that if people want to know more about the factors behind Lehman's resignation, they should speak to the former president himself.

The issue is no longer a DSA matter, said Domingos.

Board chairperson Attilio Renon ended the



— Ron Lehman

discussion by telling Cooper to "just notify them (rumor spreaders) that it really doesn't affect them at all in any way."

Following the meeting, DSA treasurer Paula Sossi said in an interview it doesn't matter that Lehman was on the executive at the time the circumstances resulting in his resignation arose, because he's not on it now.

"He did what he felt was best," said Sossi, adding she wishes people would respect that fact.

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The new residence council (from left): Bob Pettit, vice-president — director of student life; Richard Moravec, president; Rob Thibeault, activities co-ordinator.

(Photo by Jeff Brinkhof)

First-year broadcasting student elected residence president

By Jeff Brinkhof

First-year Conestoga broadcasting student Richard Moravec captured the presidency of Rodeway Suites new (student) residence council convincingly in elections held Nov. 18. He took 47 of the 98 ballots cast.

The Caledonia native finished 20 votes ahead of his nearest competitor, second-year woodworking technology student Bob Pettit. Rob Thibeault, a second-year management studies student, finished third with 24 votes.

The strength of his support going into the privately-owned residence's first elections, however, wasn't so obvious prior to the vote, Moravec said.

"I'm a bit surprised at the outcome," he said. "I thought a few days before the election that it might be leaning toward the other opponents. When I realized it wasn't going in my favor, I decided some vigorous campaigning was in order."

Moravec went door to door and recruited some of his friends to help him with posters and his speech.

"I thought I could win if I got to everyone who didn't know me. I made sure I knocked on every door listening to the people's concerns and questions. One thing I promised was to listen to every resident's concerns and questions."

To further this goal, he plans to send out a weekly newsletter of current residence events. He also hopes to have an open discussion period after every residence council meeting.

"This isn't a dictatorship or anything," Moravec said. "I want people who live there to voice their opinion. I'm not going to make decisions based solely on my opinion, though if the situation comes down to where I have to, I certainly will."

Residence liaison and Doon Student Association (DSA) activities and promotions co-ordinator, Cola Buscombe, said she's happy with Moravec's selection as president.

"I think he was the best choice," she said. "He's very dedicated and very eager. I think he'll do a good job."

Buscombe said the two other residence council positions, director of student life and activities co-ordinator, were still to be decided. No one ran for either position, but the losing presidential candidates will be filling the jobs.

"It's weird how it ended up. Bob gets first pick of the two positions because he finished second and Rob gets whatever's left."

Pettit chose the director of student life position and Thibeault became the activities co-ordinator.

She said she was somewhat disappointed at the lack of candidates in all positions. "I wish more people had run, but what can you do when they're not interested."

Moravec was also disappointed with the lack of involvement but hopes to improve participation in the future. "I tried to emphasize in my posters that it didn't matter who you voted for, but to at least vote," said Moravec. "I want people to participate in the residence, to make sure they have a part in creating Rodeway community spirit."

He said he plans on fostering this spirit through group activities such as a residence-Kitchener Ranger night at the Memorial Auditorium and a Christmas or New Year's party.

"Some students are interested in going to Montreal for New Year's," he said. "I believe that was one of Rob Thibeault's campaign promises, but it's an excellent idea so why not carry it on."

College budget review could reduce the deficit

By Omar Welke

Conestoga's projected budget deficit for the 1993/94 fiscal year could be substantially reduced, says Kevin Mullan, Conestoga's vice-president of finance and administrative services.

Mullan presented a revised forecast of the college's financial situation to the board of governors at its monthly meeting Nov. 22 at Doon.

In his report, Mullan explained that a review of operations and budget to the end of October showed a more optimistic trend than had previously been projected.

A number of unforeseen changes had occurred in the college's funding and spending trends, he said.

The originally projected budget operating deficit of \$1,381,000 could be reduced to \$889,000 because of these changes, he explained.

Specific factors affecting the outcome of the budget projections were explained by Mullan.

He said one-time costs allotted to the college in last year's budget had shifted in favor of the college.

Some anticipated staff severance costs have been revised because they were recorded as expenditures and liabilities in the 1992/93 year, he said. This means a potential reduction of \$290,000 in the

college's expenditures.

Changes in economic renewal funding and pay equity funding are other sources of revenue for the college, Mullan said.

Economic renewal funding, which is a provincial grant to encourage college enrolment growth of at least 1.5 per cent, will put an additional \$450,000 in the college's coffers, he said.

Conestoga has grown well over the 1.5 per cent goal set by the fund, said Mullan.

Increased activity in the small business and law and security administration programs, as well as the skills upgrading programs for laid-off construction trades workers is the reason for this growth.

The college's pay equity costs may be reduced because potential adjustments to pay equity funding may increase Conestoga's funding share, said Mullan.

A likely revenue reduction of \$200,000 due to social contract negotiations has been figured into the revised budget projections, said Mullan.

But "the final impact of the social contract won't be known until the end of the fiscal year," he warned.

Mullan also summarized but did not detail other smaller items and activities which could favorably change the college's financial standing over the fiscal year.

College board meeting briefs

The following are highlights of a Nov. 22 board of governors meeting.

⇒ Jennifer Horner, chair of the finance and audit subcommittee, presented a report of the committee's Nov. 12 meeting. She reviewed the format of reporting financial information to the board and presented a summarized approach to the reporting process.

Horner said the province has confirmed reduction of operating grants to the system by at least \$10 million or about 1.5 per cent.

⇒ Jacqueline Mitchell, acting chair of the advisory committee on academic and student affairs board subcommittee, presented a summary of its Nov. 17 meeting. She announced that a joint venture between the college's journalism program and the University of

Waterloo is in the final planning stages and will soon be officially announced.

She also announced that enrolment has increased by 5.5 per cent. This is attributed to growth in the schools of business and access and preparatory studies.

⇒ Conestoga president John Tibbits issued a list of responses to recommendations by the task force on advanced training.

The responses deal with a number of issues affecting advanced training in Ontario. The recommendation dealing with the establishment of an Ontario Institute for Advanced Training was met with extensive discussion. Tibbits deferred a final decision on the debated responses of the report to the next meeting of the board scheduled for January.

SPOKE

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To clone or not to clone: That is the question

Occasionally, I've wondered what it would be like to have a twin. But seldom, if ever, have I considered the implications of having a couple of dozen clones of myself running wild. That is, until recently, when I came across an article about the subject in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record.



By Alan Horn

According to the article, scientists can now clone human embryos. This is only one step closer towards the actual cloning of humans, but it is a big one. And assuming we eventually possess the technology, or desire, to replicate humans or animals, what will the consequences be?

Place yourself, if you will, in this futuristic scenario. The family pit bull, Snuggles, while playing in the yard, catches spring fever and vacates the yard — permanently. After combing the neighborhood endlessly, you resign your efforts to streak off to the local pet store. It is there where you place your order for a new, but identical version of Snuggles.

Of course, the process isn't instant. It involves implanting a cloned embryo of Snuggles into a surrogate mum dog. Snuggles will once again be born after the normal gestation period.

Closer to home, what would it be like if we could replicate humans? Imagine the heartache that could be avoided in event of a divorce. Endless custody battles for the kids would be passé. Children could be cloned so each parent could have, in effect, custody of them. The value saved in time, money, and emotional turmoil would be enormous.

In the event of war, clones could be sent to battle while the original person could remain at home.

And what about breakthroughs in dating? The phrase double date would have new meaning. Dates could be arranged so three or even four versions of the same person could go out with three or four duplicates of another person. Thus, everybody would agree and be one big happy family.

And what if you have a problem with mice? Replicate your cat. Why bother shelling cash out for a cat that may be different? Simply replicate it a dozen times.

There are still more advantages. A replica would be a great work replacement. Why not vacation in sun-drenched Hawaii while your clone does your tasks? Think of your studies. With a duplicate, you could sleep soundly at night while your double does your work.

These are only a few of the many advantages that would come with cloning. But wait a minute. Isn't something missing?

Maybe we should leave reproduction to nature. After all, if cloning ever became a practised reality, it could no longer be said that you are one of a kind. It could no longer be said that you are you. Somebody else is.

Letters to the editor

Spoke welcomes all letters to the editor. If you have a beef, or an opinion, please send it in. Spoke reserves the right to edit letters to fit space, and to remove any libellous statements. Your letter must be signed, and include your program and year for verification. Send letters to the Spoke office, Room 4B15, Doon campus.

Spoke, Conestoga College,
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OPINION

WHERE ARE THEY NOW : KIM CAMPBELL



Give serious consideration to student centre

One of the biggest shortcomings of Conestoga College's Doon campus is the ridiculously small size of its student lounge.

Couches, chairs, pool tables and video games have been jammed together into one small space.

The good news is, this unfortunate situation may not be permanent.

That is, if the discussion which took place at the Nov. 9 board of directors meeting is any indication.

Jennifer Kurt, Doon Student Association (DSA) vice-president of administration, told board members the DSA executive has a goal of "increasing the amount of student space."

This increase in space would be made possible by the construction of a new business building, which would in turn free up space in the main building, Kurt said.

"From the C wing, up towards the blue cafeteria, will be renovated for student space, giving the students what they want."



By Brad Hilderley

"We are to do a student needs survey to find out what the students would like to have in this space," she said.

This news raises exciting possibilities. Students should give serious thought to how they respond to the survey.

If Conestoga students doubt how much better a new student centre could potentially be than the current student lounge, they need look no farther than the University of Waterloo.

That school's Campus Centre features a large central lounge area surrounded by rooms for club meetings, video games, special presentations and television viewing.

In fact, these are the types of ideas students should keep in mind when responding to the survey.

It was also at the board meeting that chairperson Attilio Renon praised the DSA for its progress on the student centre concept.

However, it must be remembered that the DSA's progress is due largely to a fortunate coincidence. The space available for the proposed student centre is a window of opportunity that did not exist for previous student governments.

The amount of praise the current DSA executive truly deserves will be determined by its handling of the survey and what executive members do with the results.

But let's not forget that government can be — and this case is to be — a two-way street.

With the expected survey, student leaders are planning to ask for your input on this important issue.

Here's betting they're ready to listen.

Dirt in the corner gives me the janitorial blues

When I was a kid I used to think that colleges were sparkling clean places of higher education full of scholarly types pouring over ancient Latin texts.

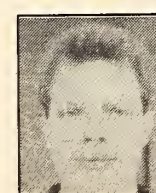
Now that I'm attending college, those images have been replaced by reality. As is the case when youthful illusions are shattered, some of those realities I can accept and some I can't.

I don't mind the fact that I didn't have to learn Latin or spend all my time reading dusty old books.

I do mind the dust I see in some parts of the college.

I realize the college's janitorial staff has only so many hours in the day in which to perform its duties. Having worked in the industry, I can understand that a garbage can might get missed occasionally, or that piece of paper in the corner might not get swept up.

I cannot understand, however, how a floor would fail to get vacuumed for weeks at a time or how recycling bins could be allowed to



By Robert Gray

overflow for days.

As far as I know, the situation is not life threatening. No one that I know has tripped over a mountain of paper and broken a leg or sneezed out a lung due to the dust stirred up when you move a chair over a rug.

However, the situation is getting to the point where it takes a direct request to the janitorial staff to get recycling bins emptied.

This should not be happening. The cleaning of rooms and changing of blue boxes is the responsibility of the janitorial staff. Those duties should include more than picking up a few pieces of paper off a rug and ignoring other duties.

The lounge and cafeteria receive

excellent attention, for the most part. The hallways are usually kept clean of coffee spills and candy wrappers.

But the gum on the stairwell, which could easily be scraped up, and other areas lacking in janitorial care, are starting to annoy me.

When I worked at the Waterloo campus of Conestoga College as a janitor, I was expected to do my job. When time permitted, I did a thorough job. If my schedule was pushed, I did the best job I could and made up for it the next night.

Why can't the staff at the Doon campus do the same thing?

Is their schedule so full that they practically ignore whole classrooms? Is the college so strapped for cash that they can't give their employees enough time to do their jobs properly?

Or are some of our janitors not fulfilling their duties?

I honestly don't know. What I do know is that the level of cleanliness could be, and should be, better.

DSA leader will not elaborate on ex-president's resignation

By Kenton Augerman

Doon Student Association (DSA) president Geoff Pearson says he knows the personal reasons that prompted former president Ron Lehman to resign Nov. 9, but won't reveal those reasons to the public.

"This is one of those situations where I'm going really strongly on my personal morals," Pearson said in an interview Nov. 23. "I just feel that it (a public explanation) is not needed."

"Maybe I'm way off-base, but I don't think so. I just can't see any news of the nature that's affecting Ron affecting the school in an adverse way."

"I just can't see any news of the nature that's affecting Ron affecting the school in an adverse way."

— Geoff Pearson

Pearson said he's "pretty sure" the rest of the DSA executive council know why Lehman resigned, and added some members wonder why they can't reveal his reasons.

"I just have to defer it back to him (Lehman)," Pearson said. "It's personal . . . students don't need to know."

Meanwhile, Lehman maintains his resignation has nothing to do with the DSA or its activities.

"Something happened in my personal life that I feel that it would be better for the DSA to carry on with Geoff as president," Lehman said in an interview Nov. 22. "I have things in my private life that would make it better if I was not on the DSA, and that's why I resigned."

Though he conducted the interview while sitting in his old chair in

the DSA president's office, Lehman said he would play no further role in association business and has ceased to be a member of personnel, finance, constitution and other DSA subcommittees.

He said he remains a general business student and still "officially" belongs to the college's date and acquaintance rape awareness committee because it "is not a DSA position."

However, date and acquaintance rape committee chair Jack Fletcher said it was his understanding that Lehman's resignation from the DSA terminated his position on the committee.

"I'll have to look at it (Lehman's committee status), because at our last meeting (Nov. 19), he wasn't there; neither did I expect him to be there," Fletcher said in an interview Nov. 22.

Fletcher, who serves as college advisor to the DSA, and Lehman said they were unaware of stories circulating around the college concerning Lehman's resignation, but Pearson, DSA pub manager Rob Werner and DSA treasurer Paula Sossi said they had heard of people speculating about why the former president had resigned.

Pearson said he first became aware of stories the week before Lehman resigned, and added Lehman asked him for advice regarding one account.

"He was like, 'What do I do? You're my friend,'" Pearson said.

Pearson said he has been conducting "plenty of informal personal investigation" as Lehman's friend, not as DSA president, to find out who's behind the stories.

Told that an anonymous student had called the Spoke office with a complaint about Lehman, Pearson said he wasn't surprised.

"If it were me after him (Lehman), I would think, 'Go to the

paper. That would screw him right off the bat.'"

The caller said she knows why Lehman resigned and other students should too.

Lehman questioned the validity of such a complaint.

"An anonymous phone call is obviously something you should consider, but it's not necessarily hard facts."

The DSA can't ignore complaints about its members, Pearson said. "As for my whole personal feelings on that kind of thing go, I myself could never ignore them (complaints)."

"What I would really like to see is a resolution of Ron's problems. Possibly at that time, Ron would be able to come forward himself . . ."

— Geoff Pearson

Pearson said it would be nice if the stories ended, and added, "What I would really like is to see a resolution of Ron's problems."

"Possibly at that time, Ron would be able to come forward himself and state what his problems were, why they may have occurred and how they were resolved."

Corrections

In the Nov. 15 issue of Spoke, Shari Dickson was incorrectly identified as Sheri Dixon. In the Nov. 22 issue, Attilio Renon was incorrectly identified as Attilo Renon.

Spoke regrets the errors.

DSA rumors

continued from page 1

She said the executive's image will not be tarnished in the long run by its decision to not provide further details to the student body.

By leaving office, Lehman was acting in the best interests of students, said Sossi.

"I know what his personal reasons are, but I do not care to comment on them," she said. "This is a personal issue of Ron's."

Lehman told her directly, in a one-on-one meeting, why he resigned, said Sossi, but she doesn't know how the other executive members were told.

"In the back of my mind, I wish I could make students aware of what is occurring."

But she said she can't because she feels it would be inappropriate and would be spreading rumors.

However, the executive cannot prevent students from finding out, Sossi said.

"We can't control that from occurring."

It will never get to the point, though, that the whole student body will know the whole truth, according to Sossi. "People will get an insight into the matter, but no one will know for sure all the details."

ever, only the dialogue that goes on during DSA executive meetings is for the student population.

If the DSA president wants to resign in front of his fellow council members first, then announce it to the students, that is his prerogative.

You are correct, however, in assuming that any member of the executive would be glad to talk to you, a Spoke reporter or any other student about pubs, upcoming entertainment or a possible student centre.

This is our job. This is what we do for the students. We do not get paid to talk about personal items such as the reasons for the president's res-

ignation.

This is nobody's business but the person's who steps down; not mine and not yours.

Now, Mr. Augerman, I ask you, is that considered soaking you for a yearly activity fee of \$54? Or does that make the DSA a scaled-down version of the former Soviet Union or China?

I believe I have answered your questions.

Brad Logel
DSA entertainment manager and second-year broadcasting — radio and television student

You Tell Us

Has the resignation of former president Ron Lehman shaken your faith in the Doon Student Association?



No. If someone resigns and doesn't want anyone to know his reasons, we can't make accusations.

Brad Maciazzyk
Numerical control technology
First year

Yes. I don't know much about the DSA, but since we voted him in, we should know what's going on.

Steve Allen
Law and security administration
First year



Yes. If the guy has no explanation, who knows what he might have done?

Tom Durance
Mechanical engineering
Third year

No, not really. If he feels he can't do the job, then fine. We don't want a president who can't handle it.

Joy Dhanraj
Office systems administration
Second year



No, not if he resigned for personal reasons. Everybody has their own problems. You deal with them however you see fit.

Harmen Spoelstra
Computer programming/analyst
Second year

Yes. If he's going to resign, he has got to explain himself. It sounds like he stole some money from the school or something.

Jarek Nagorski
Mechanical engineering
Third year



Yes. I'd like to know why he resigned. It makes you wonder what's going on behind the scenes that we don't know.

Jody Girodat
Nursing
Second year

Yes. You expect the people you vote in to stick with it throughout the whole year. If they fail, it gives you a bad impression.

Sergio Valentim
General business
Second year



By Duncan R. Inglis

Letter to the editor

Student councillor responds to editorial

To the editor:

This letter is in response to Kenton Augerman's editorial entitled DSA silence causes credibility gap, which appeared in the Nov. 22 issue of Spoke.

In that editorial, Mr. Augerman asks the Doon Student Association (DSA) to "come clean" about the personal reasons former president Ron Lehman gave for resigning. Has the DSA done something that is not clean? The answer, Mr. Augerman, is no.

I do not blame Spoke or students for wanting more details. As a broadcaster, I understand that enquiring minds want to know. How-

Stereotypes still exist

Male nursing students feel the backlash

By Julie Magee

Some males in nursing programs at Conestoga College say stereotypes still exist in a profession that has traditionally been dominated by women.

People are often startled when they find out Ted Moore is in the registered nursing (RN) program. Moore, a husky 20-year-old, said people are surprised because he does not fit the physical attributes stereotypically attached to male nurses.

Bill Matthew, also in the RN program, agrees with Moore that neither of them fit the image some people have of a male nurse.

"They figure men would be more feminine than what we are," Matthew said.

Fellow nursing student Will McKnight said he is often asked, "Isn't nursing for girls?" or "What are you doing in that program? You don't seem like the nurse type. You're not 5 foot 5 and 110 pounds."

Teri Greenough, first-year RN, can sympathize with the fact her male classmates face stereotypes for being in a profession dominated by women.

"I feel some people still think guys who are nurses are gay, but they're not," Greenough said. "A lot of the guys in my courses have girlfriends."

When Dave Christy told his neighbors he was planning to take the registered nursing assistant (RNA) program at Conestoga, they looked at him strangely and questioned his sexual preference.

"I encounter stereotype views more outside of school," Christy said.

According to Moore, men tend to stereotype them more than women. Moore's classmate Bonnie Jokic said she does not have a problem

with males enrolled in the program.

Greenough said men are just as capable as women of working in the nursing profession.

Moore said his aunts are supportive of his decision.

However, a couple of his friends' fathers would like to laugh at Moore whenever they see him.

The fathers feel he will be working in a "woman's profession."

"I think they are more set aside because a big fellow, like myself,

"I feel some people still think guys who are nurses are gay, but they're not. A lot of the guys in my course have girlfriends."

— Teri Greenough

would be in a female profession that is sensitive and caring," Moore said.

"But guys are starting to see that it's not wrong to openly care for someone."

Moore said he realizes the nursing field has historically been a woman's calling.

However, Moore, McKnight and Matthew said more men are entering the female-dominated nursing profession.

"It (the number) is not equal, but there seems to be more male nurses than there used to be," Matthew said.

"Now that there are more male nurses, people are not as shocked. Today, males being in the profession is more acceptable."

Nancy Hacking, chair of the school of health sciences, has witnessed a gradual increase of males entering the nursing program over the years.

"With job equality, we see more people in non-traditional roles than we used to," Hacking said.

Presently at Doon campus, there are 37 males in the RN program and eight males in the RNA program.

Many of the male nurses in the RN and RNA programs are looking forward to working after graduation. Christy is one of those males.

"I feel the future will be positive and it will be a rewarding job," Christy said. "That is what I look for in an occupation."

McKnight decided to take the program because he wanted to get into the public service industry. "Someone told me to try the RN program if I wanted to get into that

line of work," McKnight said.

"I looked into the program and decided it was something I wanted to try."

When Moore graduates from the RN program, he would like to either use nursing for a

missionary organization or work in emergency in a hospital ward.

Matthew's decision to take the RN program was motivated by thoughts of becoming a doctor.

However, the number of years he would have to spend in medical school to become a doctor was overwhelming.

He chose the nursing field instead.



Ted Moore (top) and Bill Matthew practise a wheelchair exercise.

(Photo by Julie Magee)

DSA Family Christmas Day



Sunday, Dec. 5

2 p.m. - 4 p.m., in the Blue Room Cafeteria

- * The DSA invites you and your family to attend an afternoon of Festive fun! The day will include face painting, magic show, refreshments and a visit from SANTA!

Admission - donation to the Student Food Bank

Please register in advance by Wednesday, Dec. 1

For more info, see Becky at the DSA Activities Office, or call 748-5131

Candy CaneGrams

Send that special someone a CHRISTMAS TREAT

ONLY 50 cents

- * proceeds to Family and Children's Services
- * Order your "Candy-gram" at the DSA Activities Office Nov. 29 - Dec. 6

Candy Canes will be delivered Dec. 6-10



Children's Christmas Wish Tree



Share the Joy of Giving

Give a Child a Christmas to Remember

Nov. 15 - Dec. 10

Purchase a Gift for the Child of your choice The Wish Tree is located outside the DSA Activities Office Gifts will be donated to Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region

National AIDS Awareness Day

Wednesday, Dec. 1

Ignorance breeds FEAR!

Get the FACTS

at the AIDS Awareness Information Display inside Door #3



National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Monday, Dec. 6

- ⇒ On this day in 1989, 14 women were killed by one man in Montreal, Que.
- ⇒ Violence is a global issue. Women and girls around the world face emotional and physical abuse, rape, sexual assault, genital mutilation, dowry deaths, sexual slavery, female infanticide...
- ⇒ Violence is a chosen response. Men must take responsibility for their actions.
- ⇒ Every community and every institution must work to build a culture of safety, equality, and justice for women and children.
- ⇒ Purchase a Rose Button for \$1 from the DSA Activities Offices in support of this action.



Perspective

Suicide Awareness

Friends shocked Loss of student still felt months after his suicide

By Brad Hilderley

Disbelief, guilt and hate were emotions a Conestoga College student says he experienced following the suicide of a friend, also a student of the college, in April 1993.

"At first I didn't believe it," said Brian Potts, a third-year electronics engineering technology (computer systems) student, during an interview. "I thought it was some kind of sick joke."

Guilt came next in a series of emotions, according to Potts, who said he used to "razz" his friend in an effort to motivate him.

"I thought maybe I had done something. Maybe I shouldn't have been so hard on him."

Feelings of hate came next, said Potts.

"I hated him for being that weak, for being able to do that."

"I thought he was just a spineless little wimp," he said.

By this time Potts's school work and home life had begun to suffer, he said, but he found a way to come to terms with the tragedy.

"One night I went to the tree where he actually hanged himself from, and I started pounding away on the tree until my knuckles started bleeding," Potts said. "And then, I sat down and I cried for a while."

"Being at the spot — being there and seeing the things he saw last — brought me close enough to him that I was able to deal with everything."

But Joe Voisin, in the same year of the same program as Potts, said, "I don't even know if I've really recovered from it yet. It's going to take a long time," Voisin said during the same story interview.

Voisin said his friend's 21st birthday was just two weeks away at the time of his death. He was a third-year student in the

electronics engineering technology (computer systems) program, said Voisin.

He said he would not reveal the identity of his deceased friend.

"We don't want him to be remembered that way. A lot of people don't know that it was him."

Their friendship extended back to their Grade 10 days at Preston high school, Voisin said, but that lengthy friendship provided no hint of the impending tragedy.

"He didn't give a clue at all. Absolutely no warning."

"He was the same as he was every day" on the last day

Voisin saw his friend alive, he said.

"I don't claim to understand what he was thinking. Actually, I pray that I'll never understand it."

"I hope I never understand the logic behind suicide," Voisin

said.

"No one really knew to help him. I think if he would have told somebody... it would have been different," he said. "It's very important to talk to your friends and tell them what you're feeling."

Potts said Conestoga has an excellent support system to help people who may be thinking about committing suicide.

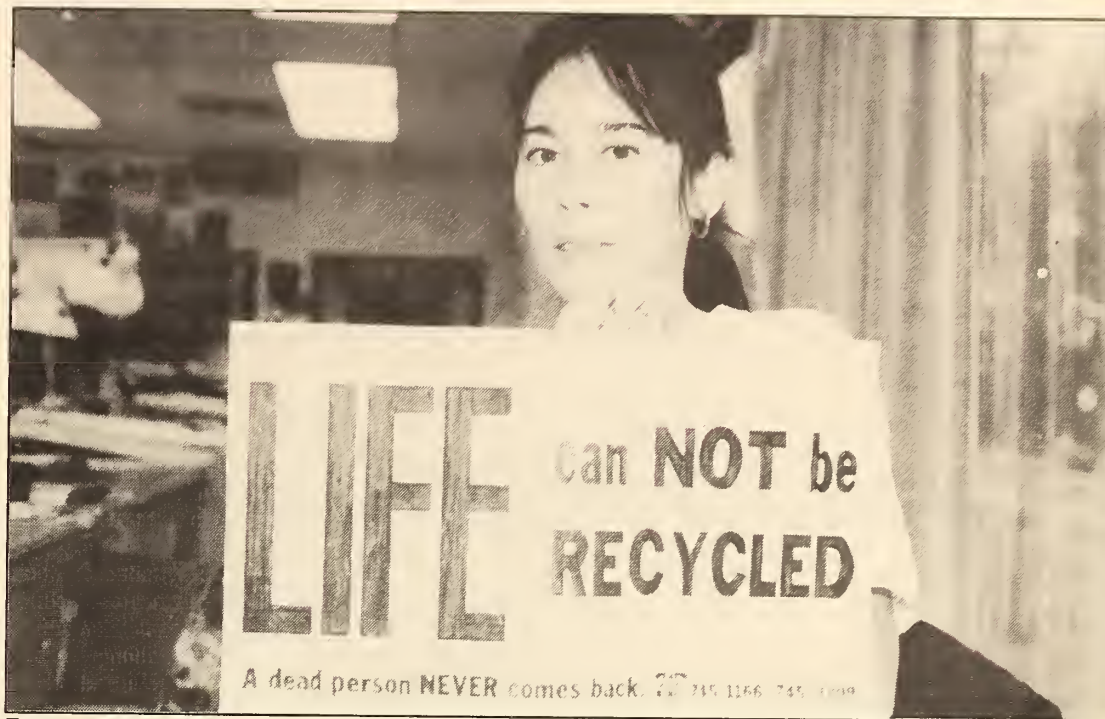
As well, there are community telephone help lines, and the Canadian Mental Health Association can help, he said.

"There is professional help everywhere for people." But many do not know these support systems exist.

"There were a lot of people I talked to that didn't even know they had counsellors at (Conestoga's) student services," Potts said.

Voisin said teachers should tell their students about the college's counsellors.

"If it helps one person, then it's worth it."



Frances Fraser displays a dummy of the poster she made for Suicide Awareness Week.

(Photo by Alan Horn)

Take warning signs of suicide seriously

By Alan Horn

If ever there was a book of stereotypes published, the suicidal person would not be in it.

Suicide is committed by the rich, the intelligent, the seemingly self-confident and by those fastest to crack a joke.

It could be committed by mothers, sons and daughters, best friends or teachers.

It is committed by over 3,500 people in Canada every year.

Suicide, according to Rick Casey, a counsellor and special needs advisor at Conestoga College's Doon campus, can be committed by anyone if the circumstances are right.

"It could be you or I. It could be any different age group, he said.

"It's not isolated to one segment of the population, be it by age, or be it by race."

Depression or a particular crisis an individual feels there is no resolve to could precipitate into a suicide attempt, Casey said. What may appear to be a minor setback to most people could be represented as a major crisis by a suicidal person at that time in their life, he said.

Casey added that while suicide can affect anyone given the circumstances, there are some groups more at risk than others.

"What we do know is that the single largest chunk of the population (committing suicide) seems to be males between the ages of 18 and 24."

"That's why I think in this environment here (at the college), it becomes a little bit on the critical side because that seems to be one of the large chunks of population that we're dealing with."

Casey attributes the higher suicide rate among males to the fact that they are less inclined to share their feelings and less likely to go out looking for some level of support than females.

Part of detecting suicidal tenden-

cies is becoming more aware of changes in an individual's behavior.

"If someone who is traditionally very buoyant, outgoing, and relatively carefree, all the sudden becomes very sullen, withdrawn, and tends to lack interest (in life), then I think you're starting to get some signs."

"Someone might say 'I wish I were dead.'" Such comments should be taken seriously.

A concerned individual should probe by asking a person they suspect to be suicidal what he or she meant when he or she made the comment that hinted at suicide.

A concerned person should also be aware of changes in a suicidal person's life.

"The single largest chunk of the population (committing suicide) seems to be males between the ages of 18 and 24."

— Rick Casey

He or she may be dealing with a form of rejection, such as divorce or the break-up of another relationship, Casey said.

Failure at school, loss of employment, financial losses and loss of health can also be contributing factors in a suicide.

"Thinking about it is relatively normal. I think we've all said at one time, 'I wish I wasn't here', or 'This place is driving me nuts: I wish I were dead,'" he said.

"It's when the individual is actually taking the next step and he or she starts to put some plan in order" that becomes more serious, he said.

Casey said he has more concerns with someone who comes to him and tells him he or she is going to kill himself or herself and then dis-

closes the method by which they will do it.

"All of the sudden that heightens the seriousness of that person's intention," he said.

Bob King, a counsellor in student services at Doon campus, also has experience dealing with suicidal people.

King said more people contemplate suicide than might be expected.

He's detected an increase in suicidal tendencies at the college over his years, he said.

King said a primary symptom of suicide is witnessing an individual taking a more narrow focus.

"There is basically a difference in their approach. They don't seem to care about things as much as they used to," he said, adding that they may give away prized possessions.

Last week (Nov. 22-26), the college held Suicide Awareness Week.

It was organized after the suicide of an electronics engineering technology (computer systems) student in April 1993.

First-year graphics design and advertising students at Doon campus made posters with anti-suicide messages for the awareness week.

The posters were on display in the foyer inside door four.

"Mine is very abstract in thought and design. It has an abstract design on top and says in big letters, 'If this doesn't make sense why does suicide?'" said Chris VanVliet.

VanVliet said he hoped if a person contemplating suicide saw his poster, that he or she by figuring out what the poster meant, could also unravel their own problems and dismiss any suicidal thoughts.

"The main theme of my poster was life can not be recycled," said Frances Fraser.

"I know someone who committed suicide maybe five or six years ago."

"So when I heard about this project, I was thinking about that person," she said.

Community help lines

Youth Line 745-9909
Help Line 745-1166
K-W Hospital
Crisis Clinic 742-3611

Telecare
Cambridge 658-6805
Counselling, Conestoga
(Doon) ... 748-5220 Ext. 360

The line dance starts here, there and everywhere

By Gary Wiebe

There are those doing it on Tuesday evenings, those doing it on Wednesday evenings, some are doing it on Sunday afternoons and still others are doing it every chance they get.

They strut and stroke and push the tush to the cowboy cha-cha and boot-scootin' boogie.

"They" are Conestoga College employees and "it" is line dancing — the latest dance phenomenon still sweeping the bars, halls and malls of Canada and the United States.

Bill Guenther, a Conestoga College graduate of the early '70s, stands on a platform in front of 60-70 neophyte line dancers at Waterloo's Royal Canadian Legion on Regina Street.

With hands shoved deep into the

front pockets of his blue denim jeans and black cowboy hat slung low over his forehead, Guenther calls out the steps to E Z Boogie, one of hundreds of western-oriented line dancing tunes:

*"Left behind, turn, kick,
right behind, right, kick,
left behind, left, kick,
step up, step up,
back two, three, lift,
hip, hip, hip, hip,
roll, roll."*

With smiles wide as the line is long, these urban cowfolk stomp, spin, step and clap their way to the new country craze.

Marilew Smart of the registrar's office said, "It's a great time with good people and lots of fun. I started last March and can't wait to get out and dance. It's better than aerobics and it makes me feel young again."

Guenther agrees with Smart. "People are having fun. They're learning to dance, meeting other people and learning from each other. It's a different kettle of fish."

Guenther said he first saw line dancing at Kitchener's Stampede Corral in March. He was so impressed by what he saw he devoted his time to learning as many steps as he could.

He then formed Uncle Bill's Country Line Dancing — a small group of line dancing instructors.

He said, "It's so popular. Everybody's in on it. I'm so busy going from place to place teaching it and I don't see it levelling off in the foreseeable future."

Sharon Kipfer, a financial aid officer, said, "I go as often as I can. The people I meet are so nice and there's all kinds. There are people who like rock and roll, there's

young and old and all shapes and sizes. It's great."

Guenther, who has taught people as young as 11 and even had a couple who'd been married for 55 years, said, "One hundred per cent of the people doing it are very nice. They're not cliquish and they're helpful, even to total strangers."

Irene Rhude of training and development said, "I love it and it's not just about dancing — it's a social evening. It's great for singles."

She said going to bars used to make her feel uncomfortable. Line dancing changed that.

"At one time I wouldn't walk into a bar by myself. But now I feel safe. No one hits on you. It's non-threatening and there's no problem with drunks. Everybody's too busy dancing to get drunk."

Guenther said line dancing also benefits the economy through the

sale of cowboy boots and hats.

All agree, whether it's Billy Ray Cyrus's Achy Breaky Heart, Dion's The Wanderer, Marty Stuart's Hillbilly Rock, Bob Seger's Old Time Rock and Roll, or, perhaps the most popular line dance number of them all, Brooks and Dunn's Boot Scootin' Boogie, line dancing is fun, healthy and, best of all, you don't need a partner.

If, one day, you happen to drop into administration during lunch break, and you see what you think is odd behavior — don't fret it. What you're probably seeing are boot-scootin', hip-shakin', hand-clapping, foot-stompin', happy people with huge smiles practising their line dance routines in anticipation of that evening's fun and entertainment.

Yee-Haw!

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Long Distance call: (519) area code - first page, \$1.50, each additional page 99 cents

Other area codes, \$2.50 first page, 99 cents each additional page

Incoming FAX service available for no charge

For more information see Jamie at the DSA Administration Office

Christmas Comedy Dinner Show

Thursday, Dec. 9

3 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Blue Room Cafeteria

Featuring: Music by Rick Rose

Comedians Jamie K

Dave Hook

Ian Sirotta

John Pattison



Wow! What a night of entertainment!

Tickets: \$10 each or 2 for \$18

Includes a turkey dinner with all the fixings!

Tickets available at the DSA Activities Office

Licensed event

About the Performers —

- * **Dave Hook** is "Canada's funniest new comic," Yuk Yuk's 1993
- * **Joe Wilson:** in this case M.C. stands for "Mean Comedian"
- * Jamie K is an amateur comedian presently at Conestoga in BRT year two. Tours frequently with Dave Hook.
- * **Ian Sirotta** is a Yuk Yuk pro, who hails from T.O. and could have easily been the headliner!
- * **John Pattison:** This headliner travels North America with his muppet/Dummy (don't tell him I called him that). A definite show stopper!



Sharon Kipfer (left) and Marilew Smart show their dancing abilities.

(Photo by Gary Wiebe)

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SPORTS

Five goals in third earn Condors victory

By Duncan R. Inglis

Four games into the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) men's hockey season, some Conestoga Condors forwards seem to have set their sights on the league scoring title.

Dave Long scored Conestoga's winning goal 13:10 into the third period of a 9-5 home victory Nov. 19 over the St. Lawrence (Brockville) Schooners, and finished the night with three goals and three assists.

Condors captain Darren Kinnear rung up a second Conestoga hat trick.

"Long is one of the best players in the league," said Condors coach Ron Woodworth. "From what we've seen so far, that whole line (Long, Joel Washkurak and Chris Ottman) is amazing."

Despite Long, Kinnear, Ottman and Jody Pfaff's offensive performances, "Scotty Ballantyne once again saved our bacon," added the Condors coach.

Ballantyne formerly played in goal for the Stratford Cullitons in a Junior B league.

Last year, Long led the OCAA with 47 points and looks to be on

pace for another season atop the scoring leaders' board.

"He's just been on a tear," said Woodworth.

The Condors' surrendering of more than four goals in three out of four games so far has bothered the coach.

But he said he's not too worried because a team with as much firepower up front as Conestoga should be able to outscore opponents for the most part.

Rounding the scoring for Conestoga in the Nov. 19 game were Ottman, who stuffed two behind Schooners goaltender Dave Waddington, and Jody Pfaff.

Woodworth said his team played a little lackadaisical, with only a 4-3 lead going into the third period, but rebounded for five goals in the final 20 minutes.

The Condors were to meet Cambrian College Golden Shield, one of the top three contenders for first place in the Costello Division in which Conestoga plays, Nov. 26.

The Condors had a 3-1-0 won-lost-tied record as of Nov 24.

Woodworth said the team was thinking too much about the upcoming Cambrian game, and the Condors heads weren't in the St.

Lawrence game for the first two periods.

Conestoga lost its first game 5-4 to Sir Sandford Fleming (Lindsay) Auks, but returned and beat an unbeaten Seneca Braves 4-1.

The team then visited Peterborough, collecting an 8-4 road victory over Sir Sandford Fleming (Peterborough) Knights, in a game rescheduled from Dec. 10 to Nov. 12.

The Condors next see action against the Schooners Dec. 3 in Brockville.

(Duncan R. Inglis is a Spoke sports reporter and part-time employee of Conestoga's recreation centre.)

Coming up

The Condors next two home games are scheduled against the Niagara Knights, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m., and the Seneca Braves, Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre.

Cliff's Crazy Christmas

Join us in celebrating the Spirit of Christmas

Dec. 5-9

Sunday, Dec. 5

Family Christmas

2 - 4 p.m. The DSA invites you and your family to attend an afternoon of FESTIVE FUN! Magic show, face painting, refreshments and a visit from SANTA!

Blue Room Cafeteria

Monday, Dec. 6

Christmas Cartoons

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. All your favorites! Student Lounge

Tuesday, Dec. 7

Christmas Caricatures

1 - 4 p.m. Bring in a photo of a family member or have yourself done!

Great gift idea!

Main Cafeteria

Wednesday, Dec. 8

HO! HO! HO! Contest

12 p.m. The best SANTA imitation wins. Sign up at the DSA Activities Office.

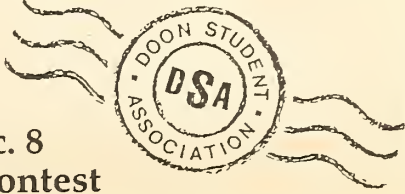
Thursday, Dec. 9

SANTA Visits Conestoga!

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Bring your wish list for SANTA to review. Photos with SANTA available. Free Egg Nog and Cookies

Christmas Comedy Dinner Show

3 p.m. - 8 p.m. WOW! What a night of entertainment. Four comedy acts! And a great turkey dinner with all the fixings!



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NFL POOL — Week #12 Winner is Jeff Brinkhof

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See Mike at the DSA Activities Office for more information.

Spokesports

(Standings as of Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1993)

Ontario Colleges Athletic Association Men's Hockey

Results —

Nov. 27, St. Lawrence(B) at S.S.Fleming(P)
Nov. 26, Cambrian at Conestoga
Algonquin at Seneca
Niagara at Fleming(P)
Nov. 25, Algonquin at Fleming(L)
Nov. 20, Algonquin 7, Fleming(P) 5
Fleming(L) 3, Cambrian 7
St. Lawrence(B) 6, Niagara 11
Nov. 19, Seneca 9, Cambrian 4
St. Lawrence(B) 5, Conestoga 9
Nov. 12, Conestoga 8, Fleming(P) 4

Costello Division

TEAMS	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Seneca Braves	5	1	0	40	15	10
Cambrian Gold Shield	4	2	0	50	30	8
Conestoga Condors	3	1	0	25	15	6
Niagara Knights	2	1	0	26	26	4

Parker Division

TEAMS	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Algonquin Thunder	3	2	0	23	24	6
S.S.Fleming(L) Auks	1	3	0	20	31	2
St.L.(B) Schooners	1	5	0	28	52	2
S.S.Fleming(P)Knights	0	4	0	16	35	0

Future Games —

Thur., Dec. 2, Seneca at Fleming(L); Fri., Dec. 3, Fleming(L) at Fleming(P); Conestoga at St. Lawrence(B), 2:30 p.m.; Cambrian at Seneca; Sat., Dec. 4, Conestoga at Algonquin, 2:30 p.m.; Cambrian at Niagara; Wed., Dec. 8, Niagara at Conestoga, 7:30 p.m.

NEXT HOME GAME: Fri. Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m.



at Conestoga



Scoreboards and Schedules

OCAA Hockey Scoring Leaders

(As of Nov. 21, 1993)

Player, Team	GP	G	A	Pts	Pim
Dave Long, Con.	4	6	9	15	22
Tim Favot, Cam.	4	5	9	14	6
Chris Ottman, Con.	4	8	5	13	13
Derek Etches, Cam.	4	9	4	13	8
Brent Jones, St.L(B)	5	6	6	12	16

(GP-Games Played, G-Goals, A-Assists, Pts-Points, Pim-Penalties in minutes)



Got the Munchies?

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Available at the DSA Activities Office

MacLeod's new experiments fall on mainly deaf ears

By Kenton Augerman

By his own admission, the nooner Paul MacLeod played in the Doon campus main cafeteria Nov. 17 was not his finest outing.

"If I were to rate my performance out of 10, I would probably give it a four," the Waterloo musician said during a telephone interview Nov. 20.

"I was tired because I had been in a recording studio (with local trio The Groove Daddys) until 6:30 a.m. and only got about two hours sleep. If I were to go back (to Conestoga College) tonight, I'd be in much better shape."

Without a sound check, and after being introduced as "Paul MacLed" by Doon Student Association entertainment manager Brad Logel, MacLeod settled in for a 70-minute set that focused predominantly on original material.

Settling in couldn't have been easy, considering the audience was largely composed of a

swarm of high school students gathered at Doon campus for visitor information program and college information program day.

MacLeod said he had expected the crowd to be indifferent and was surprised that some people listened.

In situations such as this, MacLeod said, "I just adjust and make things a little simpler. If I had been waiting away on the guitar... a lot of people would have said, 'This is a little hard on my ears. I'm out of here.'"

Playing to a migratory audience enabled MacLeod to do "whatever hit me," he said, adding he experimented with singing in different keys and a new song entitled Soad.

The 23-year-old said the Rheostatics, Sugarcubes and Cyndi Lauper covers he played, illustrate how music, regardless of its diversity, can be "deconstructed to its essence on an acoustic guitar."

Though acoustic guitar serves as the foundation for all of

MacLeod's songs, and though it's the only instrument he used at the college, he also plays mandolin, violin, accordion, harmonica, tin whistle, bodhran (Irish drum) and piano.

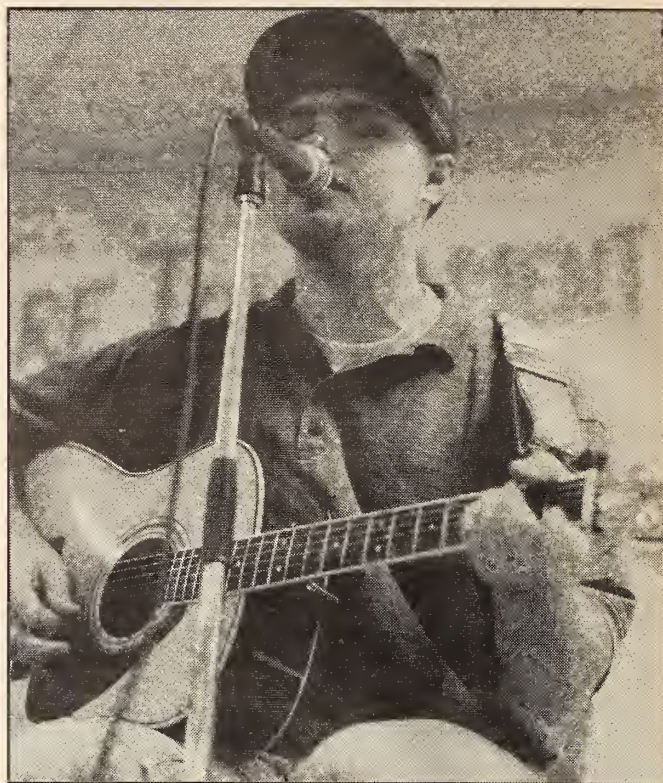
Traces of some of these instruments are found on his debut independent cassette, *Stuart*.

Almost 1,000 copies of the release have been sold or given away in promotions since December 1992, MacLeod said.

MacLeod said he intends to record a compact disc in early 1994, possibly with Rheostatic drummer Dave Clark at the production helm. The Rheostatics may contribute to some of the tracks, MacLeod added.

Meanwhile, MacLeod continues to play around southern Ontario, and attend classes at the University of St. Jerome's College in Waterloo, where he is a religious studies major.

As well as appearing on The Groove Daddys' upcoming release, MacLeod also will play mandolin on The Fat Cats' debut compact disc.



Songwriter Paul MacLeod croons at the Nov. 17 nooner.

(Photo by Kenton Augerman)



Scared Weird Little Guys Rusty Berther and John Fleming goof off.

(Photo by Omar Welke)

Scared Weird Little Guys Down Under meets the great white north

By Jason Schneider

There have always been similarities between Canada and Australia; mostly it's beer, the outdoors and comedy.

Put them together and you've got the McKenzie Brothers and Crocodile Dundee.

Put guitars in their hands and you've got Barenaked Ladies and Scared Weird Little Guys.

The "Scardies," as they are affectionately known, made their second Conestoga College appearance on Nov. 16 and treated the packed cafeteria to an hour-long display of witty songs and tons of Australian charm.

The typically indifferent crowd was cold early on, but warmed up after hearing hilarious takes on The Beatles' Yesterday ("Yesterday... was the day before today, and tomorrow will be yesterday, on the day after tomorrow..."), Elvis and The Beach Boys.

The Guys also earned big laughs with a story about a show they did in Winnipeg at a place called The Forks. In Australian slang, "the

forks" is a hand gesture similar to our North American one-finger salute, and they found great glee in demonstrating it to the audience for the rest of the performance.

Finding their stride, The Guys galloped through several more parodies of famous songs.

Everything from Billy Ray Cyrus to Michael Jackson ("I can't tell if I'm black or white,") received the Scared Weird Little Guys treatment.

However, the highlight of the set proved to be the audience participation section where The Guys attempted to play Prince's Kiss in any musical style the crowd requested.

Reggae, blues and rap seemed easy, but they really showed their skills after someone called for east Indian.

The Guys closed with a heartfelt tribute to lunch and a valiant attempt at Duelling Banjos.

Since forming Scared Weird Little Guys in 1990, John Fleming and Rusty Berther have become staples on Australian television and radio thanks to their uncanny ability to

compose songs on the spot.

After honing their voices in The Phones, a popular a cappella group, Fleming and Berther found comedy to be an easier path to success. "When we started doing comedy in Melbourne, there really wasn't anybody else doing what we were doing," said Fleming.

"So it was easy for us to get on bills since we had already laid the groundwork through our association with The Phones."

The Guys' show here at Conestoga turned out to be the final stop on their three-month 1,500... and counting North American tour, commemorating their 1,500th performance together.

"Now we're going back to Australia, where we've got lots of work lined up for December," said Fleming.

"And while we're there, we're going to start making demos for our album that will hopefully go into production next year."

Fleming also said he and Berther based themselves in Toronto during their stay and got to experience more of Canada this time than on their first tour.

"We got to see the Blue Jays this year," said Berther. "When the whole World Series thing happened, we were caught up in it and it was just crazy."

They also got to see Barenaked Ladies and Corky and the Juice Pigs, bands that they are often compared to. "We met Corky and the Juice Pigs in Australia and they helped us make connections for our first North American tour," said Fleming.

"They told us about this band that opened for them called Barenaked Ladies, who, at that time, were just a duo, similar to us. But this time we saw them as a full band and we were pleasantly surprised with what they were doing."

After selling over 30 copies of their independent cassette following their nooner, it seems possible that the Guys could achieve BNL-sized success when their new album is released.

Poinsettias for Christmas

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Monday, Dec. 6



Poinsettias for Christmas Order Form

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Total Amount Paid: \$ _____

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